

amusement at the mishap depends upon the impression which his dignity and his humiliation

successively make upon us : it would disappear

altogether were he seriously hurt. it is not shared at all by the victim of the accident.

Her father was asleep in the library ; her mother was dead, so she could count upon receiving the young man alone.<sup>35</sup> Here we are suddenly taken from the idea of a siesta to that of a funeral, and again to the contemplation of a young woman's love affairs. It is supposed by the eminent

French psychologist. M. Henri Bergson, that laughter provoked by the ludicrous has a purposeful value, being a means by which society

corrects the abnormalities or eccentricities of individuals. But this theory does not appear to

cover the ground. The question is not one of laughter, but of amusement. our laughter is only the expression of our amusement, and it is quite possible to be amused in silence.

The pleasure of gambling is no doubt associated in some degree with a desire for gain. But the typical gambler is rather prodigal than avaricious,

and covetousness contributes but little to his excitement. The alternations of chance produce

two strongly contrasted moods—that of winning

and that of losing—and the prospects of the game arouse in imagination the changes in mood that would follow luck's vagaries. Change is thus of the essence of a gambler's pleasure : in this respect,

chance resembles the ludicrous. For the gambler,

however, the circumstances are too exciting to be funny. His personal interests are at stake. But you may often see bystanders smile when the changes of luck are particularly frequent.

Here, also, may be classed the pleasure which Oriental peoples take in litigation. During the course of a suit the imagination of the litigants